

Bill No. 5946

We already have strong consumer protection laws in Connecticut.

As written commercial and municipal uses would be included, which are often covered by a shorter warranty than a recreational user. Most outboard manufacturers are now offering the recreational consumer 5-6 years of warranty coverage, a law such as this could be cause for manufacturers to pull back on these very generous warranties.

Paragraph (d) states "a reasonable number of attempts" and "acceptable to the consumer" are very open to interpretation and potential abuse by an unreasonable consumer. Refund of the full purchase price and "all collateral charges" including sales tax, registration fees and similar government charges seems to go against current policies. If a consumer were to purchase a vessel and sell it after 3 months he would not be eligible for a sales tax refund. This proposed bill would allow a consumer to use a boat up to 2 years and receive a full refund, not costing him any money at all, even for wear and tear or usage of the vessel. Clearly this would be abused by some.

Why can't CT. adopt a pro-business environment like some other states. Alaska recently passed a law where all marine warranty work is paid to the dealer at full retail, both parts and labor. This is incentive for a dealer to do warranty work, and would bring taxable profits into CT. If the intent of this bill is to ensure warranty work is done timely and correctly why not incentivize the dealer with a positive proposal instead of penalizing a dealer with a bill that is vague and open abuse.

Paul Cusson Jr.  
Atlantic Outboard Inc.  
Westbrook, Ct. 06498